

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Cheilanthes nudiuscula* (R. Brown) T. Moore, previously *C. hirsuta* (Poiret) Mett.**

Since our recent publication on the genus *Cheilanthes* in Australia (Chambers & Farrant 1991), Alan R. Smith (1991), in a review of S.B. Andrews' *Ferns of Queensland* (1990), has correctly pointed out that *Cheilanthes hirsuta* (Poiret) Mett. is 'a later homonym for *C. hirsuta* Link, a Mexican species'.

The Australian species was first described as *Pteris hirsuta* by Poiret (1804: 719) and later transferred to *Cheilanthes* by Mettenius (1858: 69). However, the name *Cheilanthes hirsuta* had already been applied by Link (1833: 40–41) to a Mexican species, so the use of this name by Mettenius was illegitimate, being a later homonym. Another name, *Cheilanthes nudiuscula* (R. Brown) T. Moore, is available.

The epithets *hirsuta* and *nudiuscula* suggest very different conditions of hairiness, and the species does show great variation in this feature. At one extreme of the variation found in the species are specimens with a glabrous upper pinnule surface and only a sparse cover of medium length hairs (1–4 cells) on the lower pinnule surface. Most specimens have sparse, medium length hairs on the upper pinnule surface and moderately dense, medium length hairs on the lower pinnule surface and rhachis. Although the specific epithet means 'somewhat naked', the type specimen of *C. nudiuscula* has a moderately dense cover of hairs on the upper pinnule surface and a dense cover of hairs on the lower pinnule surface, which places it at the other extreme of the variation found within this species. In addition, this type specimen has elongated triangular pinnules, which are less common in the species than oblong, rounded pinnules, but which still fit within our accepted range of variation for the species.

Cheilanthes nudiuscula (R. Brown) T. Moore, Ind. Fil.: 249 (1860)

BASIONYM: *Pteris nudiuscula* R. Brown, Prodr. Fl. Nov. Holl.: 155 (1810).

Cheilanthes tenuifolia subsp. *nudiuscula* f. *glabrata* Domin, Biblioth. Bot. 85: 142 (1915).

HOLOTYPE (Quirk et al. 1983: Figure 26): NORTHERN AUSTRALIA: Coast 'T' [Tropical: the coast of Queensland and the Northern Territory westward to Arnhem Bay], R. Brown 60, 1802-5 (BM).

SYNONYMY: *Pteris hirsuta* Poiret, Encycl. 5: 719 (1804). *C. hirsuta* (Poiret) Mettenius, Farnh. 3: 69 (1858), *nom. illeg.*, non Link (1833). HOLOTYPE: unknown locality and date, P. Sonnerat (P-LA, photo seen).

C. tenuifolia subsp. *nudiuscula* f. *pubescens* Domin, Biblioth. Bot. 85: 142 (1915). LECTOTYPE (Chambers & Farrant 1991): QUEENSLAND: Picnic Hill, Russel [Russell] R., K. Domin 313 (PR).

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